



RAJSHAHI: Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) recently organised a seminar on 'self financing is our motto'. Additional Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi Habibur Rahman was the chief guest who distributed rewards among the farmers of irrigation charge lucky draw 1996. The Executive Director of BMDA Md Asaduzzaman presided over the seminar. — Star photo

### Tragic death of two brothers

From Our Correspondent  
GAIBANDHA, Aug 2: Two cousin brothers of village Durgapur under Palashbari thana drowned in a pond on July 27.

On the day of incident Habibur Rahman 7 and Shipon 10 were bathing in the adjacent pond of one Goffar's house. At one stage, victim Habibur fell into the water and cried for help. With a view to rescue the victim Shipon jumped into the pond. Both of the brothers drowned. The bodies were later recovered from the pond after few hours. Another news adds: Gaibandha police arrested 74 accused persons on various charges from different locations during the last 72 hours. Police launched several drives throughout the district and arrested 74 persons involved in crimes and anti-social activities. Many of them were wanted by police on various cases. They remained at large for long.

### Elder brother allegedly kills younger brother

From Our Correspondent  
KUSHTIA, Aug 2: One Nimal in his mid twenties and son of a rickshawpuller was allegedly killed by his elder brother at village Moslemur in Bheramara Thana recently.

Family sources said that there was an altercation between two brothers in connection with borrowing of 10 taka. At one stage the elder brother allegedly kicked Nimal in the abdomen who sustained injury. The victim felt severe pain. Nimal later went to sleep. In the morning Nimal was found dead. Police on getting information recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for post-mortem. A case has been registered with Bheramara Police station. The Elder brother is absconding.

### Flood affected people in Faridpur badly needs relief, work

From Our Correspondent  
FARIDPUR, Aug 2: The flood situation in the four affected thanas of the district is still unchanged though the water level has fallen two centimetres during the last two days.

Stormy winds accompanied with heavy showers during the last two days have caused untold suffering to the flood affected people under the from affected thanas — Sadar Char Bahadrasan, Sadarpur and Bhanga.

The worst affected union are Ishan Gopalpur, Char Madabdia, North Channel and Decreern Char under Sadar thana, Char Bahadrasan, Char Ghawanda and Char Harirampur under Char Bahadrasan thana, Narikabaria, Char Nasipur, Akoter Char and Charmanair under Sadarpur thana, Nasirabad and Chandra under Bahga thana.

Dwelling houses of five hundred families were washed away by the onrush of the flood-water and crops on twenty five thousand acres of land were damaged. The people who have been rendered homeless have taken shelter on embankment and other high land areas.

Immediate supply of relief materials is necessary for their existence. Government's attention is drawn to this miserable plight.

They have been passing their days under open sky braving stormy weather.

### Body of an unknown woman found in hospital

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Aug 2: The body of an unidentified young woman, aged about 20, was found lying in the emergency ward of Nandail thana health complex on July 21. An unknown rickshawpuller fled the scene immediately after leaving the body on the floor. The body bore several marks of injuries.

On getting information police rushed to the hospital and sent the body to the morgue of Kishoreganj sadar hospital.

The identity of the victim who was carrying could not be known as yet.

## Tk 600cr WB-aided project to develop 4 city corporation areas

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 2: The Local Government Engineering Department has undertaken a project named 'Municipal Service Project' for extending civic facilities in four city corporation of the country.

The project, funded by the World Bank, will cost 150 million US dollars equivalent to about Tk 600 crore.

According to the official sources, the municipal service project will include: programmes on safe water supply, housing, development of environment, sewerage, drainage and infrastructural constructions in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Khulna city corporation areas.

Primary preparations are

now being taken for implementing the project. Main works of the project is expected to start very soon, the officials added.

A team of the World Bank comprising Mieso Nishinizu, Director of Country Department-1, South East Asia region and Mills, Residential Mission Chief of the World Bank at Dhaka recently visited Rajshahi and discussed the matters in details with the concerned departments. Alongwith them the discussion meetings were also attended by Mijanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of the City Corporation, Qamrul Islam Siddique, Chief Engineer of LGED, A F M Yahia Chowdhury, Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi MA

Qasem, Chief Executive Officer of Rajshahi City Corporation, Ansar Ali, Superintending Engineer of LGED, Rajshahi and others.

Rajshahi City Corporation offered a dinner party in honour of the World Bank officials at Rajshahi Parjatan Hotel. While addressing the function Mieso Nishinizu said that the World Bank sees Bangladesh as a rapidly developing nation and would extend its assistance future. She also elaborated the municipal service project to the invited guests including high officials and elites of the city.

Earlier, the World Bank officials visited some of the on-going projects assisted by the Bank.



KISHOREGANJ: Rtn Emdad ul Haq, former Governor of Rotary International District-3280 speaking as chief guest at a function arranged on the occasion of handing over an ambulance to the Rotary Club of Kishoreganj Central recently. — Star photo

## Tk 37 cr agri loan lying outstanding

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 2: An amount of Taka 37 crore 97 lakh and 31 thousand of Krishi Bank loan has been lying outstanding in different sectors in Kishoreganj district. Out of the total amount, the date for repayment of Taka 28 crore 22 lakh and 17 thousand loan has

already expired. Meanwhile, the Krishi Bank has field 5281 certificate cases in the district upto June this year. Through the certificate cases, the amount of recoverable loan is Taka 7 crore 14 lakh and 40 thousand.

According to official source,

the Bank authority has filed 1403 certificate cases to realise Taka 70.80 lakh in Kishoreganj Sadar Thana, 258 cases for Taka 58.83 lakh in Bhairab, 265 cases for Taka 58.55 lakh in Karimganj, 164 cases for Taka 14.89 in Hossainpur, 769 cases for Taka 68.84 lakh in Katiadi, 78 cases for Taka 11.60 lakh in Pakundia, 549 cases for Taka 1 crore 71 lakh and 72 thousand in Bajitpur, 215 cases for Taka 28.10 lakh in Kuliachar, 253 cases for Taka 1 crore 23 lakh and 50 thousand in Tarail, 727 cases for Taka 1 crore 35 lakh 97 thousand in Itna, 330 cases for Taka 61.84 lakh in Mitamoin, 201 cases for Taka 28.13 lakh in Aistagram and 69 cases for Taka 21.66 lakh in Nikli thana.

It may be mentioned here that due to recurrent floodings and other natural calamities the farmers could not grow crops. Moreover, due to high price of essentials and agricultural inputs, the cultivators in general are not in a position to repay bank loans at this stage.

They urged the authorities to extend time to facilitate them to repay the outstanding loans.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: RU Teachers Association (RUTA) brought out a silent procession in the campus protesting alleged misbehaviour of Vice-Chancellor Prof M Eusuff Ali with one of RUTA leaders at VC office recently. — Star photo

### Students of FMCH go on non-stop strike to realise 5-point demand

PARIDPUR, Aug 2: Students of Faridpur Medical College Hospital brought out a procession in the town Tuesday, the 7th day of their non-stop strike, reports UNB.

The students went on strike since July 24 to realise their five-point demand. Their demands include appointment of adequate number of teachers, including the Registrar, dormitory for the female students and upgradation of the present 250-bed hospital to a 500-bed one.

Witnesses said the angry students locked all rooms of the college, including the principal's office, during today's demonstration. Later, they held a meeting at the local press club.

### Contraband goods worth Tk 5 lakh seized in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 2: Bangladesh Rifles, 22 battalion personnel recovered Indian contraband items worth Taka about five lakh from Pailanpur under Jadavpur camp in Mohespur thana recently.

Sources said, BDR personnel also recovered Indian sarees, sugar, steel goods, motor spares and other valuables worth Taka 12,30,537 from different parts of border areas during last month, sources said.

### Armed dacoits loot valuables from bus passengers

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 2: Armed dacoits looted valuable worth Taka at least 25 thousand from five vehicles near Katakahali in Mohespur thana in the night of Monday, it was reported.

According to police sources, a gang of armed dacoits numbering 15 to 16 blocked Kachandpur-Jibannagar highway tying road with both side trees and started looting at about 8.30 pm which continued till 12 pm.

They looted valuables from the passengers and drivers of bus Dhaka-Ba-4593, Microbus Dhaka metro Cha-9852, two trucks Jhenidah Ta-11 and Chuadanga Ta-0062 and an oil tanker, Pabna Ta-1557. Some of the passengers were also injured while trying to protest, it was learnt.

A case was lodged with Mohespur thana. Police could not arrest anybody so far.

### Kidnapping of woodcutters protested

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 2: Local people here brought out a huge procession and held a rally protesting the kidnapping of nine woodcutters by the members of the outlawed Shantibahini, reports UNB.

Addressing the rally at Shapia Chattar the angry people alleged that Shantibahini men abducted the nine people while they were cutting woods in the forest of Panchhari area on July 25.

They urged the government to continue its efforts to settle the long standing Chittagong Hill Tract problems and called upon all to maintain peace in the region.

Among others, Pura Commissioner Agwar Hossain, tribal leader Ditymoy Khisha and Abdul Awal addressed the rally.



RAJSHAHI: Rajshahi University Senate member Prof Shah Mohammad Habibur Rahman addressing as the chief guest at the reception function organised by the Puthia Islamic Women's College. — Star photo

## Flood situation in Chandpur unchanged, relief inadequate

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Aug 2: Flood situation in the district remained unchanged although a slight recession was noticed in the river Meghna and Dakatia. Meghna, in the meantime still flows above danger level. About 40 per cent of the low lying areas of Chandpur town is under flood water. So far eighteen unions of the district is affected.

According to Chandpur flood control office sources about two lakh six thousand people of the district are affected by the flood. About 362 square kilometer areas are inundated by flood. About 11 thousand houses were affected.

Different types of crops on three thousand acres of land

were damaged by flood. About five thousand flood affected people have taken shelter on Chandpur Irrigation Project and Matlab Dhanagoda project embankments. About ten thousand people are still marooned. Meanwhile, water crisis, scarcity of medicine is prevailing in the affected areas. The relief allocated in the affected areas is not adequate compared to the demands, many alleged. Meanwhile, many people alleged relief materials are not properly being distributed.

Government allocated cash Tk. 68 thousand and 50 metric tons of rice and 100 tins of biscuits for the affected people.

## Attempt to rape young girl foiled

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 2: An attempt to commit rape on a minor girl has been foiled recently. Police could not yet arrest the lone culprit allegedly involved in the incident.

According to the police, Iesmin, 8, daughter of Akkas Ali of Manipuri ghat area in Kishoreganj town was sleeping on the night of July 9. Her parents went out of the house for attending a marriage ceremony in a neighbouring house. At about 10 pm, Masud of the same area allegedly entered the house by opening the door and pounced on Iesmin. She woke up and cried for help following which the neighbours rushed to the spot. Meanwhile Masud fled.



GAIBANDHA: A two-storied building of Fulchhari Thana parishad faces erosion of river Brahmaputra. — Star photo

## Interest free loan for tribals in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Aug 2: The Sadar Zone authority of Bandarban Army under a programme has been conducting welfare activities to strengthen the bond of friendship with the hilly people of the district, says an UNB report.

Under the programme the poor tribal people have been brought under credit programme for their socio-economic development.

The authority already disbursed Tk 5 lakh interest free loan among the tribal people of Sadar and Roangchhari thanas.

The poor tribal people are unaware of the banking system and they usually do not go to the bank for credit in times of their need.

They generally borrow money from the 'mahajans' with high interest rate by mortgaging their standing crops.

Many tribal and non-tribal families lost everything including land for timely non-

payment of the borrowed money to the money-lenders. The members of the Armed Forces realising their plight started giving interest free loan among the poor farmers of the hilly people.

The authority disbursed loan of Tk 1.33 lakh to 63 families in Raichatal, Tk 2.94 lakh among 117 families in Roangchhari thana and Tk 1.2 lakh among other 45 families for crop cultivation.

The farmers repay the loan after harvesting the crop and again borrow the loan during the new cropping season.

Sadar Zone recently arranged a meeting of the people of tribal people which was attended by bank and BSCIC officials.

The meeting decided to create income generating employment opportunities for the tribal youths by extending credit to them. Under the decision, 20 tribal youths were given Tk 1.52 lakh by Sonali Bank for small business.

## Stolen cows recovered

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 2: Six stolen cows were recovered by the people during the raids in different cow-lifters houses in Kishoreganj sadar thana on July 29.

One cow was recovered from the house of Abul Kalam of village Padtha, one each from the houses of Matiur Rahman and Abdur Rashid of village Gabtoli, one from the house of Rabi Miah of village Purba Barati, one from the house of Abdus Samad of village Raghunandanpur and the rest one was found grazing in a field.

The recovered cows were later handed over to the police. All the cows were lifted from the cow-sheds of farmers in different areas during the last few days, police sources said. However, none has so far been arrested.

It deserves mention here that, cattle-lifting has increased alarmingly in Kishoreganj district for sometime. The farmers are passing their sleepless nights in the cow-sheds now-a-days to guard their cattle.

## Widow receives acid burn injuries

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 2: One Kalyani Rani, widow of Haran Chandra Mandal of village Gopinathpur under Meghmani union in Madhukhali thana received serious injuries when miscreants threw acid on her on the night of July 10, police source said.

It is reported that on the night of the incident the miscreants entered the bedroom of the victim, by cutting the fence and threw acid on her leaving her in agony. On hearing her crying for help, the neighbouring people rushed to her took her to Radhukhali hospital.

It is suspected that the local miscreants are resorting to such heinous activities to drive her out of the locality to grasp her land properties.

## Vanpuller killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 2: A 35-year-old vanpuller was crushed to death under the wheels of a speedy truck near Fulbaria-Barabazar in Kaliganj thana last week, police sources said.

Police said, the truck driver fled along with its vehicle just after the incident.

A case was lodged with Kaliganj thana. The body was sent to morgue.

# Vast areas in Naogaon under flood water

From A Wadood back from Naogaon

RAJSHAHI, Aug 2: Vast areas of Naogaon district have been inundated by flood water during last week badly affecting standing crops, houses and animals.

According to official sources, the Atrai and the Choto Jamuna, two mighty rivers flowing through the district started to rise since the beginning of this month as usual with coming of the rainy season. But the rivers suddenly began to rise very rapidly since the third week of this month and soon crossed the respective danger levels.

Moderate to heavy downpours and onrush of water from the upstreams across the

border caused rapid swelling of the rivers which burst their banks and flooded crop fields and localities.

When contacted the district administration could not inform of the actual harm and loss done by the floods.

A total of 29 unions of five thanas — namely Patritola, Atrai, Raninagar, Mohaderpur and Manda have been affected by the recent floods.

The Atrai and the Choto Jamuna swelled and penetrated the banks at many places. The flood-control dams broke and caused floods in vast areas of these unions.

The main flood-control dam extending from Atrai to Patri-

tola broke in the places causing inundation of six unions of Atrai and Patritola thanas.

The force of flood water made breaches in the Polder 'D' of Cholon Beel Project at Sahbari and Bakshabari resulting in submergence of huge areas of Atrai and Manda thanas.

Patritola-Saraigachi road has been submerged at two places. Raninagar-Atrai road-cum-dam has been at risk and may break at any time.

Manda thana has been badly affected by the recent flood. Eight unions of this thana have been inundated and about 26,000 people of 5,225 fami-

lies have been directly or indirectly affected.

According to official sources, standing crops of about 1000 hectares of land have been completely damaged and another 500 hectares partially damaged. Besides, 624 houses, two kilometres pucca and 1600 kilometres kutcha roads and 11 educational institutions have so far been damaged completely or partially.

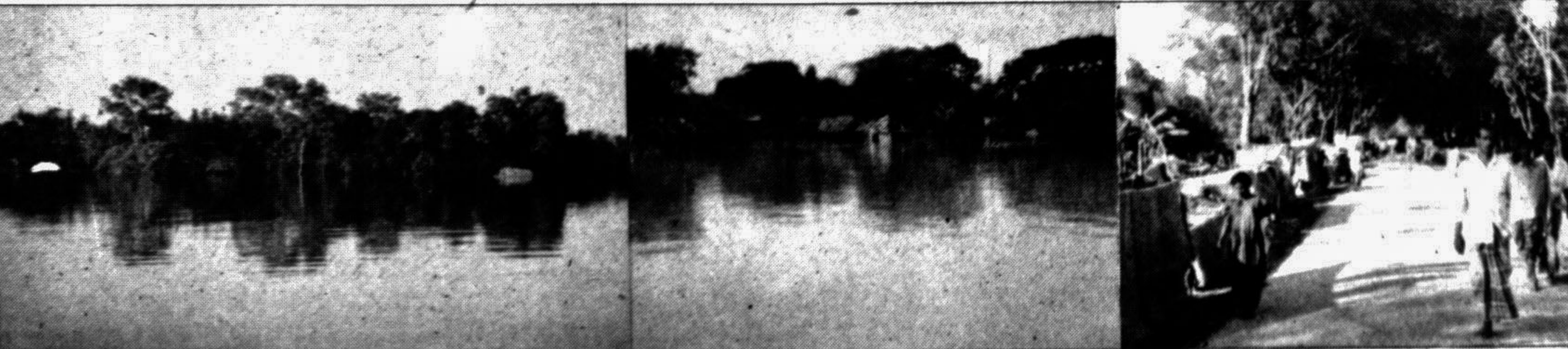
The affected unions are Koshba, Bishnupur, Nurullahbad, Kalikapur, Proshadpur, Valaton, Manda and Kushumba. The thana administration have opened eight shelter

camp and about 2,250 homeless people have taken shelter in these camps. But no relief materials reached them yet, witnesses said.

While visiting the flood affected areas of Manda, Patritola and Mohaderpur thanas, this correspondent witnessed hundreds of flood-stricken people taking shelters on the road sides and high lands under the open sky. When contacted, the flood-hit victims told many stories beyond expectations. They said, any body from the administration nor the politicians or any social leaders came to see them. They were suffering from shortage of food and drinking

water.

Meanwhile, the Padma and the Mohananda rivers have been slowly rising in Chandra Kandi district and are being apprehended to cross their danger levels within a day or two. The two rivers have started erosion along their banks. Four unions — Panka, Vijapur, Narayanpur and Sundarpur under Shibganj and Nawabganj thanas have been badly affected. 21 old villages have been completely eroded in last few years and 20 more new villages have now been at risk. But no effective measure has been taken so far to protect these areas from river erosion, it is alleged.



NAOGAON: A village in Manda (L) affected by flood water. Patritola thana (C) area inundated. Flood affected people took shelter on Manda-Najirpur bridge. — Star photo